

CITY

CONNECTION

Volume 13, Issue 3

January 2017

Calendar

January 2017

- 2 - City closed for New Year holiday
Regular Solid Waste services
- 3 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 4 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 5 - Planning Commission -
City Hall at 12:00 p.m.
- 11 - Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 16 - City Closed for Martin Luther King,
Jr. Day - Regular Solid Waste services
- 17 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 18 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 19 - Planning Commission -
City Hall at 5:30 p.m.
- 25 - Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste

February 2017

- 1 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 2 - Planning Commission -
City Hall at 12:00 p.m.
- 7 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 8 - Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 15 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 16 - Planning Commission -
City Hall at 5:30 p.m.
- 21 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 22 - Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste

Submit requests for Heavy Trash pick-up before noon on Wednesday, the week prior to pick-up, at 294-5796.

Learn more about
City events at
www.huntsvilletx.gov

Changes in Huntsville Animal Control

As you may be aware, the Rita B. Huff Humane Society Board of Directors has made a conscious decision to place more energy and resources on adoptions.

On November 8, the City was notified by the Rita B. Huff Humane Society that they are no longer able to accept animals picked up by the City's Animal Control Division, due to lack of space.

Since November, City staff has worked diligently to find another animal shelter to accept the City's animals. Section 8-1, "Enforcement" of the Huntsville Code of Ordinances requires the animal control authority, "...to pick up and impound all animals found to be in violation of this chapter." Unfortunately, dogs at large and animals causing unreasonable noise cannot be impounded presently. Furthermore, the City has very limited options for the quarantine procedure for rabies in the event of a bite, claw or scratch. Simply put, the City cannot enforce its own animal control ordinances without a designated animal shelter.

At the December 6 City Council meeting, Ordinance 2017-10 was unanimously adopted, which allowed the Council to declare an emergency and directed the City Manager to immediately commence the procurement of professional services and construction services to construct a City-owned animal shelter. The primary advantage of Ordinance 2017-10 is that it is the fastest and most efficient process for constructing the Huntsville Animal Shelter.

The City Manager intends to solicit bids to Animal Shelter Management companies to operate the shelter, as is common among other cities.

For the foreseeable future, residents should call 911 in the event of a dangerous animal situation or if the occasion warrants it. For non-emergency animal control questions, please call 936-291-5480.

Residential customers, "winterize" your sewer charge

Water meter usage for the months of November through February is used to calculate your sewer average charge for the next year. The new sewer average charge will be effective with the April billing (due in May). Consciously reducing your water usage during these months could lower your sewer charge.

"We advise residents to limit outdoor watering, such as washing cars, in order to keep water consumption down during winter months," said Jerri Weaver, City of Huntsville Billing and Revenue Manager. "Also, residents should be aware of any water leaks and make sure to have those repaired."

For more information, contact City of Huntsville Utility Billing at (936) 291-5431.

Town Creek Updates

We are sure you have noticed the construction around the city from the Town Creek Drainage Project. Below are the streets currently closed and streets anticipated to close at the start of 2017.

Currently Closed:

This work is being conducted between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

- Avenue N between 10th and 11th Street
- 7th Street between Old Madisonville Road and Avenue N
- 10th Street between Avenue O and Avenue N

Closing Early 2017:

This work will be conducted from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. The contractors will cover the areas under construction during daytime hours to help alleviate traffic congestion.

- 13th Street between Avenue M and University Avenue
- Sam Houston Avenue between 13th and 14th Street
- University Avenue between 13th and 14th Street
- Avenue J between 13th and 14th Street

Visit www.huntsvilletx.gov/TownCreek to see updates on project progression and detour maps.

Coming Soon to Huntsville!

Hotels

- **Fairfield Inn and Suites** – Near Kroger
- **Candlewood Inn and Suites** – Next to Luby's Seafood

Restaurants

- **Firehouse Subs** – behind Kroger fuel, next to Game Stop
- **Bahama Bucks** - between Aaron's and Buffalo Wild Wings
- **Taco Cabana** – next to Panda Express
- **Kioku Sushi** – formerly Moe's Grill
- **Restaurant/Bar** – 1218 Sam Houston Avenue (across from Donut Wheel)

Other

- **HEB grocery store and fuel station** – 1702 11th Street
- **Ironworks** – SH 75 North
- **Sears** – between Academy and Smither Drive
- **Convenience store with retail space** – between Ironworks and Dollar General
- **Firestone** – in front of Home Depot
- **Huntsville Classical Academy (charter school)** – SH 75 N and State Hwy. 19
- **Office/storage units** – Veteran's Memorial, near Fire Station #1
- **Storage units** – Essex and Avenue M

Expert in Every Office – Debbie Charbonneau

Meet Debbie Charbonneau, your new Main Street Coordinator. Debbie began working for the City in November and has already hit the ground running. Before coming to Huntsville, Debbie was the Main Street Manager for Georgetown, Texas and the Tourism Director for Salado, Texas.

“With a belief that historic commercial resources and their appropriate preservation is a major contributor to the overall economic, social and cultural vitality of a community, I am very excited to be your Main Street Coordinator. I have a passion for helping local stakeholders as we all come together to revitalize our downtown,” Charbonneau said about her new role.

“Partnerships are essential for a successful downtown. There are many groups that definitely share an interest in the health of Huntsville and I would like for us all to come work toward a vision not only for downtown but for our entire community.”

Charbonneau is also one of a very few in Texas who have become a Certified Main Street Manager through the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She has also been selected as the 2017 President for the Texas Downtown Association and is bringing the board of directors retreat to Huntsville in January.

The City is pleased to have Debbie join our team and we hope you get to enjoy the exciting things that will be happening with the Main Street Program.



Gold Medal Moment

Mayor Brauning and City staff were delighted when legendary USA Gymnastics coach Bela Karolyi stopped by to present the City with a token of appreciation. Coach Karolyi spent time talking with the Mayor about the success of the *Final Five* at the Rio Olympic Games and his retirement plans. Karolyi and wife Martha came to the United States in 1981 after many years of coaching gymnastics in Romania. The duo is known for creating the successful Women's Gymnastics program in the US and operating the Karolyi Ranch, an official United States Olympic Training Site, located in the Sam Houston National Forest.

The City of Huntsville is proud to support the Karolyis and USA Gymnastics and are happy they chose Huntsville to call home. The plaque will hang in the City Council Chambers, be sure to stop by and check it out!



Zika Update

Public information officers and emergency management personnel gathered for a Zika update by representatives of the Texas Department of State Health Services. Dr. Paul Grunenwald, Region 6/5 South Communicable Disease Manager, discussed the fact that the types of mosquitoes that transmit Zika feed on human blood and choose to inhabit areas within 150 meters of humans. Due to this, the CDC's recommendations for mosquito bite prevention are important.

The main guidelines for mosquito bite prevention are the 4 Ds:

- *Responsibly use insect repellents containing DEET or other EPA-registered repellents (check special guidelines for infants and children)*
- *Dump standing water which serves as a breeding ground for mosquitoes*
- *Avoid outdoor activities at Dusk and Dawn*
- *Dress in long sleeves, long pants, etc. when outdoors*

An additional recommendation is to keep mosquitoes out of homes or other structures by using air conditioning/heating to avoid open windows or to ensure window screens and screen doors have fully intact screening. It was also noted that reducing favorable mosquito breeding habitats may also reduce the risk of other viruses such as West Nile. Remind those outside during the day that the mosquitoes are active in daylight but prefer shady areas such as underneath foliage.

Dr. Grunenwald shared that fetuses are currently believed to be those most likely to suffer from the effects of the Zika virus, so women who are pregnant or may become pregnant should be aware of protection and transmission risks for themselves and their partners. This is because Zika can be transmitted also through sexual contact and because men and women appear to carry the virus for different lengths of time.

More information is available from the CDC (downloadable fact sheets and posters in several languages at <https://www.cdc.gov/zika/fs-posters/>) and from the Department of State Health Services at www.TexasZika.org.



City of Huntsville Recycling Guidelines

Direct questions to [\(936\) 294-5712](tel:9362945712)

Curbside recycling guidelines:

1. Rinse all plastics and cans to remove residue
2. Plastics 1-7 stamped with number and symbol accepted
3. Flatten items to save room inside of cart
4. Keep cart five (5) feet from all other objects including vehicles
5. Carts must be placed at the curb or street's edge no later than 6:00 a.m. on the day of collection. Carts must be removed from the street's edge by the end of the collection day (*carts cannot be stored at the street's edge*)

Items that cannot be placed in the City cart:

Garbage, food waste, yard waste, loose shredded paper, glass/oil/filters, batteries, cell phones, electronics, Styrofoam, aluminum foil, or plastic bags of any kind.

No plastic wrap, shrink wrap, or bubble wrap. No Styrofoam, even if it has a recycling number and symbol on item.

Recycling Drop-Off Center Information:

The Recycling Center accepts self-hauled recyclable items and is located at 590 I-45 North. The Recycling Center Attendant will be onsite to assist customers from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. Drop-offs can still be made Monday - Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and holiday closings are posted.

Visit www.huntsvilletx.gov for curbside recycling schedules, full list of acceptable curbside items, and more recycling information.

Recycle Grease & Antifreeze!

Do you plan on replacing the antifreeze in your vehicle this winter? Have you thought about how to dispose of these and other kinds of liquids, including motor oil, peanut oil, or cooking oil? Don't pour those materials down the drain - **recycle them!**

The City of Huntsville Solid Waste Division offers free, year-round recycling for residential customers for these liquids and other items at the Recycling Drop-Off Center (590 I-45 North) from 7:30 a.m.- 4:45 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Other items, including oil filters, are recycled in specifically marked collection barrels. As they are flammable, neither gasoline nor diesel from lawn equipment or vehicles will be accepted for disposal or recycling.

Due to disposal restrictions, the Solid Waste Division is not able to pick up liquids on a curbside basis. If you have any questions, please call 936-294-5712.



Yard Waste Specifics

Collection Service: 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesday of each month - No call-in required!

Yard waste is classified as leaves, grass, pine needles, yard clippings and small brush, items referred to as "green waste."

The total number of paper compostable-bagged, canned, or bundled yard waste items is limited to twelve (12) per household per collection day. All yard waste materials must be placed within two (2) feet of street's edge no later than 6:00 a.m. on the morning of the scheduled pick-up.

Yard waste such as leaves, grass, pine needles or small clippings must be:

- (1) Bagged in paper compostable bags or placed in personal garbage cans (not to exceed 32 gallons);
- (2) Cannot exceed 50 pounds each;
- (3) City-issued garbage and recycling carts cannot be filled with yard waste.

Tree limbs and brush must be:

- (1) No longer than four (4) feet in length;
- (2) Limbs no larger than four (4) inches in diameter;
- (3) Must be tied securely in bundles which cannot exceed two (2) feet in diameter and can't exceed 50 pounds each.

The following items and locations DO NOT qualify for Yard Waste pick-up:

- (1) Household garbage of any kind;
- (2) Anything other than green waste: NO flower pots, fertilizer, mulch, bags, dirt, potting soil, sand, rock, gravel, etc.
- (3) Commercial businesses or commercially generated yard waste.

Bring your City utility bill showing that you pay for garbage service and dispose of your yard waste at the City Transfer Station free of charge. This excludes commercial customers, yard waste contractors, and any lawn service providers. The customer must be present with their current City garbage bill at the time of disposal.

For more information on yard waste trimming collection services, contact the Solid Waste Services Division at (936) 294-5712.